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March 16 2011 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Report March 16, 2011

Present: Sheri Baron, Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Vice Chair Stacy Davison, Marlene Schultz, Nancy Sweeney

Absent: Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea

The Wall of Silence Training –

Arlington resident Mr. Dan Brown gave a two-part Power Point presentation on the workings of the Westboro Baptist Church. About 50 residents attended. He encouraged the attendees to participate in two workshops – one was role-playing five different personalities – (a Westboro member, a family member, a student, a parent and a teacher.) He later assembled the group to form two lines – one line was the Wall of Silence and the other was a group of the church protesters. For two minutes the lines were asked to play the designated role and then the reversed were lines. It was a very difficult action plan but also a most informative training session. A list will be compiled of the attendees.